



Federal Legislative Activities - Week of June 8, 2015

The House is in recess this week. Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of June 8, 2015, below.

Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

Monday, June 8th

3 PM | The Senate will resume consideration of [H.R.1735](#), National Defense Authorization Act for FY16. This bill appropriates \$578.6 billion for discretionary defense spending, \$24.4 billion more than the current level and \$800 million more than the president's request.

Tuesday, June 9th

10:30 AM | Senate Appropriations: Subcommittee Markup: FY16 Department of Defense Appropriations.

10:30 AM | Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Oversight Hearing: Transportation Security Administration, focusing on first-hand and government watchdog accounts of agency challenges.

2 PM | House meets for legislative business to consider:

[H.R. 2051](#) – Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2015. This bill reauthorizes the Livestock Mandatory Price Reporting (LMPR) Act (PL 106-78) through Sept. 30, 2020, and empowers the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to conduct livestock mandatory price reporting during government shutdowns due to a lapse in appropriations. It also makes changes to certain definitions and reports

[H.R. 2394](#) – National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015. This bill reauthorizes the National Forest Foundation Act through FY 2018, authorizing appropriations of \$3 million for each fiscal year from 2016 through 2018. Created in 1993 by congressional charter, the National Forest Foundation is a nonprofit corporation that matches federal funding to private donations to restore and enhance the nation's forests and grasslands. Although authorization for the foundation expired in 1997, it has been consistently funded through the appropriations process. The foundation uses private and federal dollars to plant trees, preserve wildlife habitat, survey streams, and restore and maintain trails.

[H.R. 235](#) – Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act. The bill makes permanent the ban that has been in place since 1998 on state or local taxation of Internet access, and on multiple or discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. This would result in increasing amounts of lost revenue on which state and local governments rely to fund essential services in their communities, like firefighters and police officers, schools, parks, libraries and continued investments to address aging infrastructure.

[H. Res. 295](#) – Supporting local law enforcement agencies in their continued work to serve our communities, and supporting their use of body worn cameras to promote transparency to protect both citizens and officers alike.

[H.R. 2289](#) – Commodity End-User Relief Act. The bill eases certain regulatory requirements to ensure that some "end users" of derivatives (such as farmers and utilities that use derivatives to hedge market risk) are not regulated as swaps dealers, requires the CFTC to conduct cost-benefit analyses of its proposed rules and requires the development of rules regarding the interaction of U.S. swaps rules to international requirements. Democrats have expressed concern that some of the bill's provisions would reduce the CFTC's ability to ensure that risky derivatives trades do not threaten the financial system; the administration has threatened a veto.

[H.R. 2577](#) – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016. The bill provides \$108.7 billion for the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) departments and related agencies, including \$55.3 billion in spending subject to discretionary caps and \$53.5 billion from the highway and aviation trust funds. On a programmatic basis, it provides \$113 billion, with the additional spending offset by receipts collected by several agencies. It increases funding for tenant-based Section 8 rental vouchers, housing for the disabled, homeless assistance and aviation safety activities but cuts funding for Amtrak, TIGER grants, transit “new starts,” the D.C. Metro system, public housing modernization and lead hazard abatement. It prohibits airline or cruise ship service to Cuba and modifies certain truck restrictions. The bill provides the following:

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance — \$20 billion, \$614 million (3%) more than current funding and \$1.2 billion (6%) less than requested, for Section 8 rental vouchers for low-income tenants, including \$18.2 billion for renewals of vouchers.

Project-Based Rental Assistance — \$10.7 billion for the Section 8 project-based rental assistance account, \$924 million (9%) more than the current level but \$106 million (1%) less than requested, with \$10.5 billion to be used for renewal of expiring contracts.

Public Housing — \$4.4 billion for public housing operating subsidies (equal to current funding), \$1.7 billion for the public housing capital fund (10% less than the current level) and \$650 million for Native American Housing Block Grants (equal to the current level).

Community Development Fund — \$6.4 billion for the fund used to support community development programs, \$86 million (1%) less than current funding and \$360 million (5%) less than requested. The core CDBG program would receive \$3 billion, equal to current funding.

HOME Investment Partnership Grants — \$900 million, equal to current funding but \$160 million (15%) less than requested, with \$133 million to be derived from the Housing Trust Fund (which would no longer be allowed to receive any funding). HOME grants provide funding to state and local governments to make affordable housing available.

Elderly & Disabled Programs — \$414 million, \$6 million (1%) less than current funding and \$41 million (9%) less than requested, for housing for the elderly. It provides \$152 million, \$17 million (13%) more than current funding but \$25 million (14%) less than requested, for housing for people with disabilities.

Homeless Assistance Grants — \$2.2 billion to provide permanent and transitional housing for homeless families and individuals, \$50 million (2%) more than current funding but \$295 million (12%) less than requested.

AIDS Housing — \$332 million to help state and local governments meet the housing needs of people with AIDS and their families, \$2 million more than the current level.

Lead Hazard Control — \$75 million for the Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control program, \$35 million (32%) less than current funding and 38% less than requested.

Choice Neighborhoods — \$20 million for the administration's initiative, \$60 million (75%) less than current funding and \$230 million less than requested.

Wednesday, June 10th

9:30 AM | Senate Environment and Public Works Markup: [S.1140](#), to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term “waters of the United States”. The bill would require the agencies to work more closely with state and local governments in a rewrite of the “waters of the U.S.” rule. The measure also contains a list of principles the agencies should consider when rewriting the rule including types of water features that can be regulated or exempt under the proposal. There are currently 36 cosponsors.

10 AM | Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Hearing: Passenger rail safety, focusing on accident prevention and on-going efforts to implement train control technology.

10 AM | House Committee on Agriculture Hearing: Past Present and Future of SNAP: The Means to Climbing the Economic Ladder. Watch the live webcast [here](#).

10 AM | House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Hearing: One Year Anniversary after Enactment: Implementation of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. Watch the live webcast [here](#).

10:15 AM | House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee Markup: FY 2016 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill. Watch the live webcast [here](#).

10 AM | House Committee on Agriculture Hearing: Implementing the Agricultural Act of 2014: Conservation Programs

10:30 AM | Senate Appropriations CJS Subcommittee Markup: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016.

Wednesday, June 10th & the Balance of the Week

House meets at noon on Wednesday and Thursday and at 9 a.m. on Friday)

[H.R. 2685](#), Defense Appropriations for FY 2016. The bill provides \$578.6 billion in discretionary spending, \$24.4 billion more than current funding and \$800 million more than requested. The total includes \$490.2 billion for core Pentagon activities subject to sequester-reduced spending caps set by the 2011 Budget Control Act and \$88.4 billion for the uncapped Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account. Consistent with the FY 2016 budget resolution, it provides that \$37.5 billion in OCO funding be used in support of base budget requirements.

Thursday, June 11th

10:30 AM | Senate Appropriations Markup: Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016, and Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016.

Friday, June 12th

9 AM | House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Hearing: U.S. Surface Transportation: Technology Driving the Future. Watch the live webcast [here](#).

9:30 AM | House Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing: EPAs Proposed Ozone Rule. The hearing will examine the EPA's pending proposal to revise the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. EPA proposed the rule in November of 2014 and is expected to finalize the rule by October 1, 2015. In its pending rule, EPA proposes to revise the current standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb), which the agency established in 2008 but has not yet fully implemented, to a level within the range of 65-70 ppb. The agency has also requested comment on retaining the current standard or lowering the standard to a level of 60 ppb. Watch the live webcast [here](#).